Sugar industries in Bihar

†2931. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL.
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have initiated meaningful efforts and action to revive and re-establish the defunct sugar industry in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that following a meeting with the officials of the State for this purpose in Patna on 13th February, 2006, he had taken an effective decision to operate sugar mills in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the latest position of the action taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) A meeting was held on 13.02.2006 at Patna to explore the possibilities of setting up of new sugar mills and rehabilitation of the sick sugar mills of Bihar.

As per the information furnished by the Government of Bihar, an incentive package has already been announced by the Government of Bihar for establishing of new sugar mills and expansion of capacity of the existing private sugar mills. So far, 39 private sector investors have shown their interest in installing new sugar mills and reopening of closed sugar mills. In addition to this, three working sugar mills have shown their desire to expand their capacity. With regard to rehabilitation of sugar mills of Bihar State Sugar Corporation, a liquidation application has already been filed in Hon'ble High Court of judicature at Patna.

Import of vegetable oil

2932. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vegetable oil industry is facing lots of problems due to import of vegetable oil;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to help the vegetable oil industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to improve the health of vegetable oil industry include:

(i) Import duty on certain vegetable oils of edible grade intended for manufacture of refined oil/vanaspati is levied at a concessional rate.

(ii) Import duty on certain crude vegetable oils of edible grade has been kept low as compared to refined oils to facilitate raw material availability.

(iii) In order to encourage production of solvent extracted oils in the country and to promote export of extractions, excise duty on food grade hexane has been reduced from 32% to 16%.

(iv) Excise duty on refined edible oils/vanaspati/interesterified fat, etc. has been withdrawn.

(v) Import duty on vanaspati, bakery shortening, interesterified fat, margarine has been raised from 30% to 80%.

(vi) In order to harmonize the interests of farmers, processors and consumers the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

(vii) Tariff Value is fixed from time to time for palm oil & its products and soyabean oil.

Prices of essential commodities

2933. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities have been increasing for the last one year or so;

(b) if so, the details thereof;